

In the Claims:

This claim listing shall replace all prior versions.

1. (Currently amended) A method of inducing apoptosis or cell death in transformed or non-transformed cells in a patient by administering to the cells RNA strands, wherein the RNA strands are ssRNA or dsRNA strands selected from the group consisting of pA and pA:pU.
2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the RNA strands are on average between 1kDa and 50kDa in size.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[6]]~~1 wherein the dsRNA is administered by intravenous administration and in dosages ranging from 1-999 μ g/kg.
7. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[3]]~~1 wherein the dsRNA is administered to the patient in a concentration ranging from 1-500 μ g/kg.
8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the patient is human and the cells are cancer cells and

dsRNA is pA:pU and the dsRNA is injected directly into the cancer cells.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the transformed cells are selected from the group consisting of T cell leukemia cells, human monocytic leukemia cells, human adenocarcinoma cells and human lung fibroblasts.

11. (Currently amended) A method of inducing cell death or apoptosis in cells by administering ssRNA or dsRNA to cells, wherein the ssRNA or dsRNA is smaller on average than 20kDa in size and further wherein the ssRNA or dsRNA to be administered is selected from the group consisting of pA and pA:pU.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the ssRNA or dsRNA is smaller on average than 10kDa in size.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein the cells are transformed cells.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein the cells are cancer cells.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the RNA strand induces an enhanced cytokine production of TNF-alpha thereby directing a T1 immune response against the cells.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein the RNA strand induces an enhanced cytokine production of TNF-alpha thereby directing a T1 immune response against the cells.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the use of RNA to induce cell death induces an enhanced immune response against the cells.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the RNA is administered in vivo to cells by a mode of administration selected from the group consisting of topical administration, systemic administration, ~~[[or]]~~ and direct injection.

21. (Previously presented) A method of inducing apoptosis in cells by administering ssRNA or dsRNA to cells wherein the ssRNA or dsRNA is less than 10kDa in size.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the RNA is ssRNA and is pA.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the RNA is dsRNA and is pA:pU.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the cells are transformed cells.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the induced apoptotic cells induce an enhanced IL-12 cytokine production.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein a Th-1 response is induced.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the RNA is dsRNA and is greater than 50 kDa in weight and induces an enhanced IL-12 response.

28. (Currently amended) A composition for inducing cell death or apoptosis in transformed cells in a patient wherein the composition is comprised of [[dsRNA]]pA:pU or pA with an average weight between 1-50kDa.

29. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 28 wherein the average weight of the dsRNA is less than 20kDa.

30. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 28 wherein the average weight of the dsRNA is less than 10kDa.

31. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 28 wherein the dsRNA is pA:pU.

32. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 28 wherein the dsRNA induces an enhanced cytokine production of TNF-alpha.

33. (Previously presented) A composition for inducing cell death or apoptosis in transformed cells wherein the composition is comprised of an oligonucleotide wherein the oligonucleotide is comprised of at least two base pairs selected from the group consisting of adenine, uracil, cytosine, guanine and inosine and wherein the oligonucleotide is between 1kDa-50kDa in weight.

34. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 33 wherein the oligonucleotide is ssRNA.

35. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 33 wherein the oligonucleotide is dsRNA.

36. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 33 wherein the ssRNA is pA.

37. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 35 wherein the oligonucleotide is pA:pU.